

THE  
LIFE & DEATH  
OF  
CHARLES  
THE  
GREAT,  
KING of FRANCE,  
AND  
EMPEROR of GERMANY.

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L O N D O N,

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**GERMANY.**



**P**EPIN, surnamed *The short*, the 23d. King of *France* ( a wise and valiant Prince ) had two Sons, *Charles* and *Caroloman*, and five daughters: *Birthe*, who was married to *Milon* Earl of *Mans*, by whom she had great *Rowland*: *Hiltrude*, married to *Rene* Earl of *Genes*, by whom she had the renowned *Oliver*; *Rohard*, *Adeline*, *Idubergue*, *Ode*, and *Alix*.

King Pepin's  
 Children.

*Pepin* being toiled out with great Wars, much broken with the care of Publike affairs, and now grown Old, that he might imploy his last dayes in the maintenance of Justice and Peace, the burden of War he laid upon his Eldest Son *Charles*, a wise and a valiant young Prince, of whose modesty and obedience he was well assured: And then retiring to *Paris*, he was not long after surpris'd with sicknesse, in which he recommended his two Sonnes to the *Estates* of

Pepin's  
death.

France, to give them portions at their pleasures, and so ended his dayes *Anno Christi* 768.

His Cha-  
racter.

He was a Religious Prince, wise, moderate, valiant, loving to his Subjects and beloved of them, happy in his Father, and his Children, and in his Government; An excellent Patterne for other Princes, who by his Example, hold it for an undoubted *Maxim*, That the strongest Fortress, and best security for a Prince, is the love of his Subjects, and the surest bond of his Authority, a respect gotten, and preserved by virtue.

Charles  
made King.

Pepin being dead, the Estates of France assembled together, and by their joynt consents, divide the Kingdom betwixt his two Sons *Charles*, and *Caroloman*, by equal portions. Brothers these were of divers humors, who had certainly ruined each other by this equality of power, had not the death of *Caroloman*, within three years after, divolved the Government of the whole Realm upon *Charles*.

His Educa-  
tion.

*Charles* was endowed with singular gifts both of Body and Mind, which were much improved by the sedulous care of his Prudent Father, manifested in the virtuous education of him: For which end he procured *Paul* of *Pisa*, a learned man, to instruct him in the *Greek* and *Latin* Tongues, and one *Aymon* to read to him *Philosophy*, and the *Mathematicks*: Himself also trained him up in Feates of Armes, and Warlike exercises. But above all, and as the ground of all virtues, he was carefull to have him trained up, and well instructed in Religion, which all his life after he loved, and honored with great Reverence the Church and Pastors thereof. He called the study of Humane Sciences his Pastimes, and the companions of his Sword, and did sometimes recreate himself therein. He loved Learning and Learned men by Nature. He delighted in *Poesy*; as some of his writings do shew; but especially in *History*, wherein he was exceeding well read. Charity, Temperance, Equity, care of Justice to releive his Subjects, to keep his Faith and promise, both to Friend and Foe, and to use a Victory modestly, were the notable effects of his excellent knowledge, as remarkable in him as in any Prince that ever lived. The

Uni-



Universities of *Paris*, and *Pisa* ( either Founded, or endow-  
ed by him ) witnesse the great love and honour that he did  
bear to learning.

During the Life of his Father *Pepin*, he shewed how much  
he had profited in Armes under so good a Schoolmaster, ha-  
ving great Commands under him, which he discharged with  
notable reputation; and the improvement of his skill and a-  
bility after he came to his Kingdom, shew plainly, that there  
was never any Soldier that carried Sword with more valour,  
nor great Captain that commanded with more Obedience,  
or that performed Noble Actions with greater successe, or  
that used his Victories with more mildnesse, and judgment.  
Neither did ever King or Prince rule with more authority,  
nor was more reverently obeyed by his Subjects and Soldi-  
ers then our *Charles*; who therefore well deserved the name  
of *Charlemagne*, or *Charles the Great*, by reason of his great  
virtues. He was of a lively disposition, quick, active, and  
vehement : *Quicquid egit, valde egit* : Yet modesty, and  
wisdom did so season, and moderate his vivacity, and vehe-  
mency, as gave a great lustre to both, and kept them within  
their due bounds : And this mixture of divers humors so  
tempered with moderation, made him as admirable for  
his Judgment, as venerable in his Person and countenance.

His Valour  
and other  
vertues.

There appeared in him a grave, sweet Majesty in a goodly  
Personage : His Body was large and strong : He was very  
patient of labour : Had a quick spirit, was cleer and sound,  
both in apprehension, memory, and Judgment : Resoluti-  
on never failed him in difficulties, nor a Reply in Discourses.  
Terrible he was to some, Amiable to others, according to  
the Cause, Persons, and Occurents ; which virtues purchased  
him such great esteem, as that he was beloved, respected,  
and revered of all men, which effects the story of his  
raign will shew : For having received a great Kingdom from  
his Father, he enlarged it with wonderfull successe; God  
having raised him up to be a Bulwork to Christians against  
the inundation and rage of Barbarous Nations in the decay  
and ruin of the Empire. And in prosecuting the Narrative  
hereof, I shall first set down his actions during the Life of

His Endow-  
ments.



his Brother *Caroloman*, then what he did from the time of his death, till he was made Emperor, and lastly what his Department was from thence to his Death.

*Carolomans*  
envy.

*Caroloman*, being Crowned King at *Soissons*, as *Charles* was at *Wormes*, began to be extream jealous of his Brothers greatnesse, whom, with grief, he saw to be beloved, honored, and obeyed by all the *French*, and that deservedly for his singular virtues and endowments both of Body and mind. This jealousie (too ordinary a concomitant of Princes) made him seek by all meanes to undermine, and overthrow the affairs of *Charlemagne*, whose eyes were fixed upon *Italy*, as the fittest, and most glorious Theatre wherein to exercise his valour, and to maintain his authority and power amongst Christians; and *Caroloman* did all that possibly he could to cross his designs therein. But before I bring him upon that stage, give me leave to shew you what at this time was the State of *Italy*, and *Rome*.

The State  
of *Rome*.

*Rome* (sometimes the Head of the World) was of late become the Chaos of all confusion, the Rendezvous of all Barbarous Nations, as if they had vowed the ruine thereof by turnes, having already sackt it three times. For under the Empire of *Honorius*, Anno Christi 414. The *Goths*, under their King *Alaricus*, after two years seige, took it, and sackt it, but did not dismantle it. Forty five years after, during the Empire of *Martian*, Anno Christi 459. the *Vandales*, under the conduct of *Genferick* their King, took it again, sackt it, spoiled and disgraced it, leading the Widdow of the Emperor *Valentinian* the third, away in Triumph. And in the time of *Justinian* the Emperor, the *Goths*, under the command of *Totila*, having weakned it by a long seige, took it, sackt, and dismantled it. Thus *Rome* was no more *Rome*, but a spectacle of horrid confusion: after so many devastations retaining nothing of her antient beauty, but only the traces of her old buildings, and the punishment of her Idolatry and Tyranny; Afterwards the *Lombards*, or *Lombards* held *Italy*, for the space of two hundred years, till by our *Charlemagne* they were subdued, and expelled.

Presently after the Death of *Pepin*, the Church of *Rome* fell into great confusions by the practices of *Didier* King of *Lombardy*, who having corrupted some of the Clergy, caused *Constantine*, Brother to *Toton*, Duke of *Nepezo*, to be chosen Pope, which he persecuted with such violence, that he procured *Philippicus*, who was already Canonically chosen, to be deposed: But the better party, seeing themselves contemned by the *Lombards*, assembled together, and by common consent, chose *Steven* the third (a *Sicilian* by birth) Pope; who being conscious to his own weaknesse, resolved to call in the King of *France*, and to oppose him against his too-powerfull enemies.

Severall  
Popes cho-  
sen.

*Charles* being thus sollicitated by the Pope, sent twelve Prelates speedily to *Rome*, that he might strengthen the Popes party against the other, intending in a greater need to apply a greater remedy; and the matter succeeded according to his desire. For a Councel being assembled at *Lateran*, they confirmed *Steven*, lawfully chosen, and deposed *Constantine*, who was set up by disorder and violence. But *Didier* would not rest satisfied with this affront, and seeing that force had succeeded no better, he resolved to try Policy, intending to undermine *Steven* with fair pretences: For which end he sent to congratulate his Election, purged himself in reference to the Anti-Pope *Constantine*, now degraded: accused both him and his Brother *Toton* of ambition, and protested to live with *Steven* in amity; and to manifest this his good meaning, he desired him to be pleased with his repair to *Rome*, that there he might confer with him in private. The Pope (who never seeks to the *French* but in case of necessity) was easily perswaded by *Didier*, who came to *Rome*, conferred with the Pope, and made great Protestations of his Obedience to him. But these his faire shewes continued not long.

*Steven*  
confirmed.

*Didiers* Po-  
licy.

There was at this time at *Rome* a Governour for the Eastern Empire, called *Paul Ephialte*, him *Didier* corrupted, and the administration of Justice being in his hands, he made use of him so cunningly, as that in the presence of Pope *Steven*, he caused him to seize upon two of his cheif Secretaries



The Popes  
Secretaries  
hanged.

cretaries, *Christopher*, & *Sergius* (whom *Didier* accused of some pretended crimes) and presently to hang them in an infamous manner. Their greatest offence was, because they favored the *French*. Neither did he rest here, but caused all the principal Citizens to be banished, whom he observed to be of the *French* faction, that so, having removed all hinderances, he might be Master of *Rome* in despite of the Pope.

The Pope  
sends for  
K. Charles.

*Sreven* was not so dull but he discovered the *Limbards* practice exceedingly to tend to his prejudice: whereupon he sent to *Charlemagne*, beseeching him to prepare an Army against *Didiers* force. This *Charlemagne* easily assented to, and fully resolved upon: But *Didier* had provided a divertisement in *France* by the means of *Caroloman*, to stop *Charles* his passage into *Italy*, making work for him in *Guienne*, where there arose a perilous Warre upon this occasion.

Troubles  
in *Guienne*.

Though the Country of *Guienne* depended upon the Crown of *France*, yet were there many Tumults raised by the practices of some Noblemen of the Countrey, who frequently stirred up the people (mutinous enough of themselves) to Rebellion. The cause of these Troubles was, the abuse of the former Kings Clemency and Bounty, who suffered such people as he Conquered, to enjoy their priviledges and liberties. *Euton* (a Nobleman of *Guienne*) began first under *Martel*, *Jeffery* and *Hunnalt* his Children, and heirs of his discontent, had continued it under *Pepin*; and *Jeffery* being now dead, *Hunnalt* succeeded him with the like hatred, which *Caroloman* fomented, that he might imploy him against his Brother *Charles*.

*Guienne* was a part of *Charles* his portion: But *Hunnalts* design was, to withdraw that Country wholly from the Crown of *France*, and for that end he pretended a Title to the Dukedom thereof, labouring to procure the people to Elect him, having the promise, and assistance of *Caroloman* to further him therein. Indeed the countenance of *Caroloman* could do much; but the wisdom and courage of *Charlemagne* prevailed more: For being advertised of *Hunnalts* practice, and of his Brothers secret designs, he armed with



with such speed, as that he surpris'd the Townes of *Poitiers*, *Xante*, and *Angoulesm*, and all the Country adjoining, *Hunalt* (who had reckoned without *Charles*) finding himself thus prevented, fled to a Noble man of that Country called *Loup*, whom he held, not only to be firme to his faction, but also his trusty and affectionate friend.

*Charles*  
subdues  
*Hunalt*.

*Charlemagne* being informed hereof, sent presently to *Loup*, requiring him to deliver *Hunalt* into his hands, who was guilty of high Treason; and in the mean time he built a Fort in the midst of the Country, where the Rivers of *Dordonne*, and *Lisle* do joyn, which he called *Fronsac*, the better to secure his Country against such Invaders. *Loup*, not daring to refuse, delivered up *Hunalt*, and all his Family into the hands of *Charles*, who pardoned *Loup*, and all that obeyed him; thus ending a dangerous Warre without blowes: And to *Hunalt* he granted life, and liberty, and the enjoyment of his goods; leaving a memorable example to all Princes how to carry themselves in a Civil War, preventing a mischief by prudence, and diligence, and not to thrust their vanquished Subjects into despair by rigour.

*Charles* his  
Policy and  
Clemency.

*Caroloman* seeing his practices against his Brother to succeed so ill, undertook a journey to *Rome*, with an intent to cause some alterations there, which yet he covered with a pretence of devotion. He also took his Mother *Berthe* along with him, and in their passage, they were honourably entertained by *Didier* King of the *Lombards*, where *Berthe* treated, and concluded a marriage between her Son *Charlemagne*, and *Theodora*, Sister, or Daughter to this *Didier*, who was one of the greatest enemies to her Sons good Fortune. Yet *Charlemagne* (to please his Mother) received his Wife, but soon after, put her away, as neither suiting with his affects, or affaires, and so, that which was intended as a cause of love, bred a greater hatred betwixt these two Princes. *Caroloman* having effected nothing at *Rome* answerable to his desire, but only discovered his foolish, and malicious jealousy, too apparent under his feigned devotion, returned into *France*, and there soon after died. Anno Christi 770.

*Charles* his  
marriage.

*Carolomans*  
death.

Charles his  
second ma-  
riage.

Leaving the intire Kingdom to his Brother, who had now no Corival.

*Charlemagne* having put away his Wife *Theodora* upon suspicion of incontinency, he married *Hildegard*, or *Ildegrade*, Daughter to the Duke of *Sueve*, his Vassall, by whom he had *Charles*, *Pepin*, and *Lewis*, and three Daughters, *Rotrude*, *Berthe*, and *Gille*, who were the Nursery of his Noble Family. But *Carolomans* jealousy died not with him, but survived in his Wife *Berthe*, who (being impatient of her present condition, and thrust headlong with a spirit of revenge against her Brother in Law, *Charles*.) retired with her two Sons to *Didier*, King of *Lombardy*, as to the most bitter, and irreconcilable enemy of her Brother *Charles*. *Didier* entertained her and her Children very curteously, hoping by them to promote his design: But it proved the heaven of his own destruction. His practice (together with the Widdows) was to procure the present Pope, who (*Steven* being dead) was one *Adrian*, a Roman Gentleman, to Crown, and confirm the Sons of *Caroloman* for Kings of *France*, wherein the *Lombard* had two designs. First, by this meanes to bring the Pope in disgrace with *Charlemagne*, that he might the easilier suppress him, being destitute of the *French* aides, whereon he chiefly relyed; and Secondly to set *France* in a flame, by setting up new Kings in it. *Didier* therefore earnestly besought the Pope to grant this favour to the Sons of *Caroloman* for his sake: But *Adrian* (well acquainted with the *Lombards* humour) was so resolute in denying his request, as that they fell into open hatred. And *Didier* being much displeased with this repulse, took Armes, and with his Forces entred into the *Exarchy*, being a Signory under the Popes jurisdiction, and besieged *Ravenna*, the chief City of the *Exarchie*: Whereupon the Pope sent his Nuncio to him, to expostulate the cause of this so sudden War against his Subjects; desiring him to restore what he had taken; and not to proceed in this Hostile manner without any reasonable cause, and that upon the pain of Excommunication.

Pope A-  
drian.

*Didiers* Po-  
licy.

He makes  
Warre a-  
gainst the  
Pope.



At the same time there fell out a great occasion to encrease the hatred between *Charlemagne* and *Didier* : For that *Hunnalt* ( who had bin before vanquished in *Guienne*, and to whom *Charles* had shew'd so much favor ) very ingratelously, but honored him by making him Generall of his Army which he had raised against the Pope. And *Didier* suffered himself to be so far abused by the insinuations, and perswasions of *Hunnalt*, touching the meanes to attempt something against the Estates of *Charlemagne*, that holding *Italy* undoubtedly for his own, he plotted a War, and assured himself of a certain victory in *France*. Thus Ambition and Covetousnesse hasten mens ruine. The Pope having no other defence to secure his Estate but his *Excommunication*, which against *Didier* proved but *Brutum fulmen*, a meer scarecrow, he was forced to have recourse to *Charlemagne*, as to his Sacred Anchor, or last Hope, intreating speedy aide from him in this his great necessity. *Charlemagne* had great reason to Arme against *Didier*, who had alwayes crossed his affairs; fed and fomented his Brothers jealousies, entertained his Widdow, and Children, and laboured to have them chosen Kings of *France*, and all to trouble or ruin his estate. He had also received his rebellious Subjects, and with their aid, practised to make a War against him.

The solicitation, and request also of the *Roman Church* was a great incentive to induce him to Arm, against him, who professed himself to be an open enemy to the Christian Religion, whereof the former Kings of *France* had shewed themselves *Protectors*, and *Guardians*. But that he might not attempt any thing rashly, he first sent his Ambassadors to the Pope, to assure him of his good will, and promising not to e wanting to him in his necessitie : Yet withall, to tell him, that he thought it best, first to use mildnesse, before he attempted force against the *Lombard*. He therefore sent also his Ambassadors to *Didier* to summon him to restore what he had taken from the Pope, and to suffer him to live in Peace. *Didier* (who relied much upon his Policy) gave good words to the Ambassadors, promising them to perform all that *Charles*

*Hunnalt's*  
ingratitude

The Pope  
sends to  
*Charles* for  
aid.

*Charles*  
Arms a-  
gainst *Di-  
dier*.



required, but in effect, he would have the Pope to accept of conditions of Peace from him, and that the Children of *Caroloman* should be declared Kings of *France*.

Didier pro-  
spers in his  
Wars.

These demands were judged so unreasonable, that the Treaty was broken, and the *French* Ambassadors returned home: And *Didier* prosecutes his War against the Church more eagerly then he did before; and having spoiled all the Territories of *Ravenna*, he took *Faenza*, *Ferrara*, *Comachia*, *Campagna*, and *Romandiola*, Towns of the six Governments, or *Hexarchy*. *Charlemagnes* Ambassadors, upon their return, inform their Master, that the War with the *Lombard* could not be avoided: and they found *Charles* in a Posture fit to invade *Italy*: For he had Levied a goodly Army to suppress the rebellious *Saxons*, who ( impatient of the *French* yoke ) revolted daily from his Obedience, which Army was now ready to be imployed against the *Lombard*.

Charles  
calls a Par-  
liament.

Yet was not *Charlemagne* willing to attempt any thing in a matter of such importance without the advise of his Estates, and therefore he presently summoned a Parliament, and ( being loath to lose time ) in the mean season he caused his Army to March, and to make there *Rendevonz* at *Geneva*, ( a Town under his Obedience, and in the way to *Italy* ) and having divided his Army into two Parts, he seized upon the Passages of Mount-*Cenis*, and *St. Bernard*, which are the two entrances from *France* into *Italy*.

Enters  
Italy,  
and beates  
Didier.

The Estates at their meeting having found the Causes of War against *Didier*, King of *Lombardy*, to be just, *Charlemagne* caused his Army to advance with all speed, and to joyn near to *Vercel*. There *Didier* attended him and gave him Battel: But at the first encounter he was vanquished by *Charlemagne*. After which, the *Lombard* rallying, and reenforcing his Army, fights him again, and was again beaten, and so shattered were his Troops, that he was enforced to suffer his Enemy to be Master of the Field; which proved an infallible Harbinger to his totall Ruine. Thus having tumultuously trussed up what he could in such haste, he sent his Son *Aldegise* to *Verona*, with the Widdow and Children

of

of *Caroloman* : and cast himself into *Pavia*, which he had diligently Fortified, as the Fortrefs, or Dungeon rather of his last Fortune.

*Charlemagne* pursues him at the heels, and with all his Forces besieged him in *Pavia*, resolving to have it at what price soever. And to make his resolution the more manifest, he sent for his Wife and Children into *Italy*, to the end that the *Italians* (who hitherto were doubtfull to whom to adhere) might know his mind, and without attending any new occurrents, might resolve to obey the Victor.

Having thus cooped up *Didier* in *Pavia*, and seised upon all the avenues, he resolved to attempt *Verona* also, which they held to be the strongest place in all *Lombardy*. So leaving his Uncle *Bernard* to continue the siege of *Pavia*, he marched with part of his Army to *Verona*.

His beginnings being so succesfull, and this Check given to *Didier*, (who was now, as it were, shut up in Prison,) gave a great alteration to the affaires of either party amongst these people of diverse humours. The *Spoletines*, and *Reatines*, and those of *Ancona*, of *Fermo*, and of *Offino* (striving as it were, which should be first) yielded to *Charlemagne*, and detested the wretched, and forlorn estate of *Didier*, as a worthy reward of his Treachery, Injustice, and Violence. The *Venetians* (who were *Neuters*, and Spectators of this Tragedy, and had never dealt in any sort with *Didier*) offered amity and succours to *Charlemagne*, who desired them to keep the Seas quiet, lest the Emperor of *Constantinople* should espouse *Didiers* quarrel, and cause any new disturbance.

*Charlemagne* staid not long about *Verona* before the City began to think of yielding: and *Berthe*, the Widdow of *Caroloman*, was the chief Instrument to draw them to a surrender, the *French* Forces being (as she said) very formidable. *Aldegise*, the Son of *Didier*, seeing the Citizens so unanimous in their resolutions to open their Gates to the Conqueror, and being unable to relieve his Father, he secretly stole away, and fled to the Emperor of *Constantinople*. Then did *Verona* yeild to *Charlemagne* upon composition, who

*Charles besieges Pavia, & Verona.*

The *Italians* submit to him.

*Verona taken,*



who received both the Inhabitants, and *Berthe* to mercy, keeping his agreement punctually with them, upon *Berthe* & her Children, he inflicted no punishment; but only blamed them for their uncivil rashness, and enjoined them to return into *France*, there to do better, and to live more honorably. This being about *Easter*, *Charlemagne* took the opportunity to go to *Rome*, where yet he staid only eight dayes to visit the most remarkable places, and to confer with Pope *Adrian*. The Pope made *Charles* a *Patrician* of *Rome*, which was a step to mount him to the *Empire*. From thence he hasted, and came to *Pavia*, which had now been besieged for the space of ten moneths: and being pressed by Warre without, and by the Famine, and Pestilence within, it at last yeilded upon composition: and *Didier* (who had hated *Charles* without cause, and attempted War rashly) fell into his enemies hands, who yet shewed himself Prudent in undertaking the War, and mild and modest in his use of the Victory.

And Pavia.

*Didier* taken Prisoner.

Thus *Charlemagne* having begun the War justly, and ended it happily, ruined the Kingdom of the *Lombards* in *Italy*, carrying *Didier* prisoner with him to *Lions*, or to *Leog*; for Authors agree not of the certain place. This was *Anno Christi* 776. A notable date to present the *Tragicall* end of so great a Kingdom, which had continued in *Italy* for the space of two hundred and four years under Princes of diverse dispositions. But Pride, Injustice and Tyranny, had provoked the wrath of God against them, so as whilst they thought to take from another, they lost their own; To usurp the liberties of others, they fell into ignominious slavery themselves, and their subtilty proved the occasion, and hastener of their ruine. An excellent Pattern for Princes and great States not to attempt an unjust and unnecessary War, nor to usurp upon any other mans right, thinking to prevail over a good cause by Craft and Policy.

*Charles* his moderation

*Charlemagne* (as was said before) used his Victory with great moderation towards the Conquered Nation, which gave great content to all the *Italians*, who held it a gain to have lost their old Master, & to be rightly made free by being sub-



subject to so wise a Lord. For he left unto them their ancient liberties, and to particular Princes (such as were Vassalls to *Didier*) their *Signeories*. To *Aragise*, Son in Law to *Didier*, he left the Marquisat of *Beneventum*. He placed *French* Governors in Conquered *Lombardy*, whom he ordered to treat these his new Subjects with the like mildnesse, as he shewed to those of his antient Patrimony left unto him by his Predecessors.

During the Seige of *Pavia*, Pope *Adrian* held a Councel at *Rome*, in favour to *Charlemagne*, to give him honours answerable to his merits of the Church, wherein it was declared, that the right to give all Benefices throughout all *Christendom* did belong to him.

A Councel  
at *Rome*.

No sooner was *Charlemagne* returned into *France*, but *Aldegise* (the Son of *Didier*) sought to disquiet *Italy*, being assisted by *Constantine*, the Emperor of *Constantinople*, and the practises of *Rogand*, to whom *Charlemagne* had given *Friul*, who now revolted from his Obedience. But the vigilancy, and care of the Governors whom *Charlemagne* had set over his new-conquered Subjects, soon put an end to these Rebellions: and *Rogand* being taken, suffered according to his demerits, being beheaded by the Kings commandment. Thus *Italy* remaining quiet to him, and his, (as conquered by a just War) it was afterwards incorporated into the *French* Monarchy in his posterity, being given in Partage to the Children of *France*, whilst the good Government of the *French* Kings maintained the dignity of the Crown.

New troubles in *Italy*.

But suppressed.

But the end of this War proved the beginning of another in *Germany*, whereof the *Saxons* were the chief promoters, drawing other People of *Germany* in to their assistance. This War continued the space of thirty years, yet not without some intermissions: The *Saxons* having still a mind to oppose and Cross *Charlemagne* in his proceedings, especially when he was busied in other affaires of great consequence.

*Charles* his  
Wars with  
the *Saxons*.

These *Saxons* were subject to the Crown of *France*, especially under *Martel*, and *Pepin* his Son. The motives of this War were diverse: The impatience of a People desiring

The cause  
of it.

ring their antient liberty, and not able to bear subjection to a forreigner: the hatred & jealousy of a Potent neighbour, threatening them with servitude: A controversie about the limits and bounds of their Lands: But the greatest, and most important cause was, the diversity of Religion: For the Saxons were obstinate in retaining and cleaving to their Pagan superstition, which they had received from their Forefathers, and Charlemagne urged them to forsake their Paganisme, and Idolatry, and to make open profession of the Christian Faith; being moved with Zeal to the general advancement of the Truth, and the private Duty of a Prince to his subjects, to provide for their soules health. Upon this controversie about Religion the Saxons fought eight times with Charlemagne: especially taking advantage when they found him busied elsewhere, watching their opportunities either to cross him in his designs, or to frustrate his attempts. At such time as he was in Italy against Didier, they played Rex, not only in rejecting the French command, but also in making War against those Cities in Germany which obeyed Charlemagne. They had taken Eresbourg from the Crown of France even upon his return, and besieged Sigisbourg, robbing, and spoiling all the Country round about.

Charles  
calls a Par-  
liament.

Charlemagne (who would never undertake any weighty matter without good advise) assembled a Parliament at Wormes, and by their Counsel and assistance, levied a great Army, to Charge the Saxons in diverse places at once. This resolution succeeded happily: For having vanquished the Saxons twice in one moneth in a pitched Field, he soon reduced them to their antient obedience: Using his Victories with much modesty and discretion; desiring rather to shew them the power of his authority, then the rigour of his force. The chief amongst the Saxons was Widichind, and as Religion was the chief motive of their frequent Rebelions; so Charlemagne, seeking the establishment of the Christian Religion in Saxony with great Zeal, after much reluctance, happily effected it. For having vanquished this Widichind, by reason and humanity, he brought him to the know-

The Saxons  
overcome.



knowledge of the Truth; and by his grave and prudent conversation, he perswaded him without any Violence, to leave and forsake his *Pagan* superstition, which force of Armes could never have effected in him, nor in the *Saxons*. *For mens soules are not be compelled with force of Armes, but with reason*: And by the meanes and endeavours of this *Widichine*, the greatest part of the *Saxons* were brought to the knowledge of the true God, and the obedience of the *French* Monarchy: And the most obstinate were forced, either to submit, or to abandon their Country. And indeed great numbers of *Saxons* retired themselves into divers strange Countries.

And converted.

Thus the War with the *Saxons* was happily ended (which had been long & dangerous) and the Conquered, by the Truth were the true Conquerors, by attaining to the knowledge of the true God. *Charlemagne* was very carefull to have them well instructed in the Truth: For which end he appointed godly and learned men in all places, and gave them honourable maintenance, whereby he shewed that his Piety was not inferior to his Valour, and happy successe; and for a president to Princes to make Religion the Sovereign end of their Armes and Authorities.

This *Widichind* was very eminent, both for Wisdome, Valour, and Authority in his Country; and from him are descended many famous Families: as the two *Hemies*, the one called the *Fowler*, and the other of *Bamberg*; and the two *Othos*, all of them Emperors: as also the Dukes of *Saxony*, the Marquesses of *Misnia*, the Dukes of *Savoy*, and the famous race of *Hugh Capet* in *France*.

From this War of *Saxony* did spring up many others in the Northern parts, of which we shall hear afterwards; but because in the *Interim* their fell out great Wars in *Spain* against the *Sarazins*, which (like a Deluge) threatned to over-run all *Chriſtendom*, I shall intermit the former, till I have spoken something of this latter, that I may proceed with the more clearness in the remainder of this History.

The motive of the *Spanish* War, was more upon pleasure then necessity: But Zeal of Religion gave a colour and shew

Charles his Wars in Spain.

shew of necessity to the Heroical designs of *Charlemagne*, who sought to enlarge the limits of the *French* Monarchy by his Armes. But this his *Spanish* War, as it was undertaken upon lighter grounds, so was it, more painfull, more dangerous, and lesse successfull then that of *Italy*, whereunto necessity and Duty had drawn *Charlemagne*; yet did his wise and wary proceeding in the action, warrant him from all blame. The occasions which moved him to bend his Forces against the *Sarazins* in *Spain* were, the assurance of good successe, the quiet and peace of his Realme, that he might have opportunity to imploy his Souldiery, the hate of the *Spaniards* against the *Sarazins*, and the generall fear of all Christians, lest these Caterpillers should creep further into *Europe*.

This was the estate of *Spain* at this time. The *Sarazins* had conquered a great part of it, and were divided under diverse Commands which had the Title of Kingdoms. Yet these diverse Kings (being apprehensive of their common danger) resolved to unite their forces against *Charlemagne*, their common enemy; and foreseeing the Tempest, they sought to prevent it, and to cross the designs of *Charlemagne*: For which end, they suborned King *Idnabala*, a *Sarazin*, being a very subtile, and crafty man, to insinuate himself into the acquaintance, and familiarity of *Charlemagne*, which stratagem prevailed more then all their Power and Forces.

Charles circumvened.

*Charlemagne* was much quickned to this War by *Alphonso*, surnamed the Chast, King of *Navar*, & by the *Asturians*, and *Gallizians* (Christian People of *Spain*) who suggested to him that the War would be easie, profitable, and honourable, and therefore most worthy the Valour, and Fortune of *Charlemagne*. This *Idnabala* also (under a shew of friendship) laboured to hasten him to the execution of this enterprise, from which he knew well he could not divert him, that he might the better betray him by discovering his Counsels to the *Sarazins*.

Charles calls a Parliament.

*Charlemagne* being wel-affected of himself, and thus excited by others, assembled a Parliament at *Noyon*, and there con-



co ncluded a War against the *Sarazins* in *Spain*. The army which he imployed in this action was very great, both for number of men, and Valour of Commanders, and Cheiftaines, being the most choise and worthy Captaines in all *Christendom*: amongst whom, these were of chiefest note, *Milon* Earl of *Angers*: *Rowland* the Son of *Milon*, and *Berthe*, Sister to *Charlemagne*; *Renald* of *Montaubon*. The four Sons of *Aymon*: *Oger* the *Dane*: *Oliver*, Earl of *Genova*: *Arnold* of *Belland*: *Brabin*, and many others. The Valour of which persons hath been fabulously related by the Writers of those dark times (who for the most part were *Friers*, concerning whom the Proverb was, a *Fryer*, a *Ly-er*,) with the addition of a thousand ridiculous Tales, so that the truth is hardly picked out from the midst of so much error: Yet what is most probable, and can be gathered out of the most authentick Authors shall be here set down. They say, that *Charlemagne*, to make this undertaking more honourable in shew, did at this time institute the *Order of the twelve Peers of France*.

His great  
preparati-  
ons.

*Charlemagne* being entred into *Spain* with his brave Army, found no object for them whereon to exercise their Valour: For the *Sarazins*, resolving to make a defensive, rather than an offensive War, had withdrawn themselves into their Cities, which they had fortified strongly. The most renowned of the *Sarazin* Kings at this time, were *Aigoland*, *Bellingau*, *Dnises*, *Marsile*, and *Idnabala*: But this last, as was said before, made shew of much friendship to *Charlemagne*, and of open hatred against the other *Sarazin* Kings; with whom notwithstanding he held secret and strickt intelligence to betray *Charlemagne* unto them.

His entry  
into *Spain*.

The first City that the *French* attempted was *Pampelune*, in the Kingdom of *Navarr*, the which they took by force, but with much paines, danger, and losse. Having sackt this City, and put all the *Sarazins* in it to the sword, they marched to *Saragocce*, which yielded to them upon composition, as did also many other small Townes, being terrified with the example of *Pampelune*. This prosperous beginning encouraged *Charlemagne* to advance forward, relying on his

*Pampelune*  
taken.

*Milon de-*  
*feated.*

wanted Fortune and good successe : But as he passed thro-  
row the Provinces of *Spain*, like a Victorious Prince, without  
any opposition, he divided his Army, and gave part of it  
to be conducted by *Milon of Angers*, his Brother in Law,  
who in his March near unto *Bayan*, was set upon by *Aigo-*  
*land*, the *Sarazin* King, who in this common danger had  
thrust an army into the Field, and now assaulted *Milon*, and  
his Troops, little expecting any enemy, and took him at  
such an advantage, as he defeated him.

This losse was very great : For Writers say that forty  
thousand of the *French* here lost their lives; *Milon* himse-  
lf being also slain for a confirmation of the *Sarazins* Victory.  
*Charlemagne* was at this time afar off, and so not able by any  
diligence to prevent the losse. Yet he suppressed his grief  
and trouble, least he should discourage the whole Army :  
and so hastning thitherward, he gathered up the remainder  
of those broken, and dispersed Troops, withall, keeping  
the Conquered Cities, and such as were Friends in their due  
Obedience : But after this there fell out another acci-  
dent.

*Aigoland*  
*entred*  
*France.*

*Charles*  
*retournes.*

*Aigoland* being puffed up with Pride through his late Vi-  
ctory, marched with his Army into *Gascoine*, and besieged  
*Agen*, to divert *Charlemagne* from his pursuit, and to draw  
him home to defend his own Country. So as *Charlemagne*,  
fearing least his own absence, and the *Sarazins* late Victo-  
ry should cause any alteration in the minds of them of *Gui-*  
*enne*, being then Subjects of whom he had no great assurance,  
he returned into *France*. *Aigoland* had now continued some  
moneths at the siege of *Agen*, yet had prevailed little, but  
only in over-running the Country, which he did freely (with-  
out any considerable resistance) even unto *Xaintonge*: the  
Country-men in the mean time retiring into the Walled  
Townes, expected the return of *Charlemagne* their King :  
*Aigoland's* Army was very great, and puffed up with the re-  
membrance of their late Victory : So as *Charlemagne* return-  
ing with his Forces from *Spain* well tired, he maintained his  
Countries more through his authority, then by present force;  
yet did he give life to the courage of his Subjects with his  
pre-



presence, and bridled the proud *Sarazin*, who could not be ignorant with whom he had to deal, nor where he was, being environed with the enemies on all sides, and in an enemies Country.

Hereupon *Aigoland*, pretending an inclination unto peace, gave *Charlemagne* to understand that he had been the first Invader; and that his own coming into *France* was only to draw his enemy out of *Spain*, and to cause him to leave to the *Sarazins* their conquered Countries free: and therefore (said he) the Treaty of an accord is easy, seeing all the question is only to leave to every man his own, and to suffer him to enjoy it quietly, the world being wide enough for us all. But to the end this Treaty might take good effect, after many messages to and fro, they resolve to come to a Parlee: and upon *Charlemagnes* Faith given, *Aigoland* came to his Camp.

*Aigolans*  
Policy.

*Charlemagne*, either really moved with a Zeal for Religion, or at least, making it the colour of his Actions, gave the *Sarazin* to understand, that he should have his Friendship if he would leave his *Pagan* Superstition, be Baptised, and make open profession of Christianity. The *Sarazin*, although he had a goodly Army, yet not willing to hazard any thing, and content with his former revenge upon *Charlemagne*, desired nothing more then to return quietly into *Spain*. And being now in the midst of his enemies Camp, to maintain his reputation, he made no shew at all of fear, but talking to his own advantage (as if no force, but only reason should move him) he entred into a serious and cunning discourse with *Charlemagne*, shewing, That unnecessary Wars were the ruin of mankind, and that he was grieved to see so much Blood spilt: That he had not begun, but followed, being urged by necessity to defend himself and his Country against the Forces of *Charlemagne*: That he was not yet so dejected, nor his Forces so weak as to refuse the Battel: But for that it would be an infinite losse to hazard the lives of so many men, he desired rather to make tryal of the right by some Troops, and they that vanquished should be deemed to have the right, and true Religion

on their side: Protesting to yield to that Religion which should appear to be best upon this tryal. This Proposal, and condition was accepted by *Charlemagne*: The Combate was fought, the proof made, and the Christian Troop vanquished that of the *Sarazin*.

*Aigolands*  
disstimulation.

Then did *Aigoland* protest openly, that he would become a Christian, but in heart he had no such meaning, and therefore took this opportunity to fly from his promise. He gives *Charlemagne* a visit, and finds him at the Table, well accompanied with his chief followers, (for then it was the Custom of Kings not sit, and eat alone) but, casting his eye aside, he saw twelve poor men ill apparelled, sitting upon the ground, near to the Table of the Noblemen; and demanding what those poor, miserable Creatures were which did there feed apart: One answered, *That they were the servants of God*: He then replied, *surely your God is of small account, whose servants are so miserable, and contemptible*: And thereupon takes an occasion to retire himself, having lost nothing, but made great advantage by this Treaty: Having hereby qualified the force of *Charlemagne*, viewed his Army, made shew of his own Courage and dexterity, and all, without an Ambassador.

*Charles* returns into  
*Spain*.

*Charlemagne* on the other side, seeing himselfe thus deluded and affronted, was resolved to take revenge for so notable a loss of men, and so bold an attempt of the *Sarazin*, so that withall speed he raised an Army of a hundred and thirty thousand men, and being thus fraught with Choller and indignation, he returned into *Spain*. His first entry was prosperous: For in the encounter he defeated *Aigolands* Army near to *Pampelune*, and for a Seal of his Victory, he carried away the head *Aigoland* his enemy, who was slain by the hand of *Arnold of Belange*, a Noble and Valiant Knight: But the sequel was not answerable to the beginning. For notwithstanding the overthrow of the *Sarazin* Troops, all the rest in *Spain* were not vanquished, where there were more Kings, and more men of War, who kept correspondence with *Amarath*, King of *Babylon*, which place was their Nursery, and Storehouse.

*Aigoland*  
overthrown  
and slain.

*Mar-*



*Marfile* and *Belingand*, two Brethren, were the chief of the remainder of the *Sarazin* Army, wherein there was a great *Babylonian* Gyant, called *Ferragat*, of an exceeding stature, him did *Rowland* slay, who was Nephew to *Charlemagne*; after which the *Sarazins* gathered together the relicts of their brooken Troops, and made a shew of resolute men, vowing to sell their lives at a dear rate to *Charlemagne*, being favoured by many great, and good Townes in the Country. *Charlemagne* makes a sudden stop and pursues not his Victory, God reserving to himself a Sovereign power over all mens designs, yea, over the greatest, and in matters of greatest consequence, to the end that all may learn to ask counsell and successe of him, and it was his will, and pleasure that the *French* Forces should not conquer and possesse *Spain*, the which he had reserved as a portion for another Nition.

The *Sarazins*  
Rally.  
A Gyant  
slain.

Thus *Charles*, who should have prosecuted his late Victory vigorously, grew remiss, which encouraged *Idnabala* the *Sarazin* (who had free access into the Camp) to make a motion of Peace. He was a good Secretary of his own Companions minds, what shew soever he made of speaking of himself. *Charlemagne* (finding by his late experience that the event of Warre is uncertain and doubtfull, and that this War tended to the loss of his Subjects, who imployed both their lives and goods for the purchas of an uncertain Victory, and seeing himself overburdened with great affairs in his other Estates, to the preservation whereof reason did summon him rather then to seek for new) he seemed not unwilling to hearken to the motion of *Idnabala*, who assured him that he found the *Sarazins* affaires to be so desperate, that they would be glad to embrace his friendship at whatsoever rate they purchased it. The Treaty hereupon began, and the cheif Article was propounded, which was, that they should embrace the *Christian* Religion, and this *Charlemagne* seemed to urge with great vehemency: but finding the *Sarazins* obstinate in their refusall, he was content to grant them peace, paying him some great summs of money, as a token that they had been vanquished by him. And

A Treaty  
of Peace.

A Traitor.

And accordingly he sent a Noble man of his Court, named *Ganes*, to treat with them, who (being by Bribes corrupted by *Marfile*, and *Bellingand*) undertook so to order businessses, that *Charlemagne* should return into *France*, and by the way, should receive a notable disgrace: yet they seemed to make such a Composition and agreement, which in shew, was very honorable for *Charlemagne*: to whom they promised to pay (as an Homage, and acknowledgment for the peace he should grant them) what sums of mony he would appoint, and that thereupon he should retire with his Army into *France*, yet leaving such Forces in *Spaine* as he pleased, to see the condition which should be agreed upon, performed. But *Ganes* had discovered to them, that *Charlemagne* upon other accounts, was necessitated to return, and therefore desired to leave the smallest Forces that he could in *Spaine*.

*Charles re-  
turns into  
France.*

The Agreement being thus concluded, *Charlemagne* departed with his Army, attending a better opportunity to effect what he had designed: and he left his Nephew *Rowland* only with twenty thousand men, to see the conditions performed. And to make his passage into *France* the more easy, he commanded him to lodge in a place of advantage, in the *Pyrenean* Mountaines, called *Roncevaux*: and so the *French* Army marched backwards to *France*, under the conduct of *Charlemagne*, who little dreamed of such an affront as he shortly after met with.

*Rowland  
assaulted.*

Whilst the *French* Army were upon their retreat, *Marfile* and *Bellingand* slept not, but gathering together all the Forces they could, they lodged them secretly in the hollow Caves of those Mountaines, being places inaccessible, and wholly unknown but only to the Inhabitants of those Countries. They had intelligence given them by *Ganes*, what number of men *Charlemagne* had left in *Spaine*, under the command of *Rowland*, to whom the reputation of his Uncle, and the good will of the People of *Spaine* in the Chiefest Townes, was of more use then his twenty thousand men, although they were the choise of all the Army. *Rowland* had no fear of an Enemy, when as returning to his Garri-  
son



son, he was suddenly set upon by the *Sarazins*, who were far more in number then the *French*, who seeing themselves thus treacherously assaulted, and compassed in, defended themselves valiantly against those miscreants: But still fresh Troops of *Sarazins* issued forth of these Caves on every side in so great numbers as that in the end, the *French* (tired and spent in so long and painfull a conflict) were oppressed by the multitudes, rather then overcome by the Valour of their enemies.

*Rowland* in so great and extreame a danger (gathering together the pieces of his shipwrack) performed both the Duty of a good Commander, and of a valiant, and resolute souldier, fighting gallantly, and having beaten down a great number where the enemies were thickest; he at length came where King *Marsile* was, whom he slew with his own hands. But *Belinand*, holding the Victory absolutely his own, pursued the *French* with great violence, in so much as *Rowland* (not able to hold out any longer) retired himself apart, and finding his Death approaching, he endeavoured to break his good Sword *Durandall*, but his strength failing him, he dyed of Thirst, through so long and difficult a combate in that hot Country: and with him dyed *Oliver*, *Oger the Dane*, *Renald of Montaubon*, *Arnald of Bolland*, and other Nobles Personages, who are the subject of many fabulous stories: Yet the Fame of their singular virtues, and prowess is engraven in the Originals of true Histories, where it shall never be blotted out.

*Charlemagne* having intelligence brought him of this great and unexpected losse, returned suddenly to take his revenge upon the *Sarazins*, of whom he killed an infinite number in severall places: and being informed of the Treason of *Gaius*, he caused him to be drawn in pieces by four Horses, as the only author of this miserable defeat. And being transported with a just disdain, and indignation for this so base an affront, he had purposed to have passed on in *Spain* to take further revenge. But the great and weighty affaires of his other Estates called him back into *France* to attend upon them,

His Valor.

His Death.

Charles  
overcoms  
the Sarazins

Returns  
into France.

them. And so ended his *Spanish Wars* with small successe, having troubled *Charlemagne* at divers times, for the space of fourteen years. For God had appointed the limits of his designs, as reserving to himself a Sovereign power over all mens enterprizes, even of the greatest.

A Rebelli-  
on in Italy.

*Charlemagne* made a Tomb for his Nephew *Rowland*, and honoured the memory of those other worthy warriors (who died in the Bed of Honor) with Monuments: after which he was necessitated to undertake divers other Wars, both in *Italy* and *Germany*, in all which it pleased God to give him better successe. *Italy* (during *Charlts* his Troubles in *Spain*) had rebelled, being provoked thereto by *Adalgise*, Duke of *Verucium*, who endeavoured to repossesse the Race of *Didier*: but that attempt was soon suppressed by *Charlemagne*, to the cost of the *Lombard* Rebels: yet shortly after ensued another War in *Germany*.

His Wars  
in Bavaria

The like occasion also bred a War in *Bavaria*: For the King *Tassillon*, who was Son in Law to *Didier*, King of *Lombardy* (being eagerly pressed by his Wife, and wonderfully discontented with *Charlemagne*) shook off the yoke of subjection, and betook himself to Arms: But *Charlemagne* surprised him with such celerity, that *Tassillon* was forced to sue for Peace: which *Charlemagne* granted upon condition of his subjection, and loyalty: But again *Tassillon*, not able to contain himself raised a new War in another place, as when we stop one breach, it finds vent by another. He stirred up the *Huns* and *Avars* (a neighbouring People to *Austria*, which was one of the Estates of the *French* Monarchy) against *Charlemagne*, who yet suppressed them with happy successe, and *Tassillon* himself being again vanquished by *Charlemagne*, and found guilty of Rebellion and Treason, was condemned to lose his Estate according to the *Salique* Law: and with him, the Kingdom of *Bavaria* ended, being now wholly incorporated into the Crown of *France*.

The *Huns* and *Avars* (of whose names joyned together, the word *Hungary* hath been made) were also punished by *Charlemagne*, and brought under the yoke of the *French*



Monarchy. They had formerly attempted by War to disquiet the Country of *Austria*, whom *Charlemagne* had at divers times opposed by his Forces, so that the War, at times; had continued for the space of eight years, and the final issue was, that all the Country obeyed him: The *Danes* also, the *Sorabes*, and *Abrodites*, and the *Westphalians*, (who had all joyned in this War of *Hungary*) were also brought under the obedience of *Charlemagne*. The limits of the Northern Kingdom called *Austrasia*, were so enlarged, that it was divided into two Kingdoms, and the Realm of *Austria* which joynes upon *France*, was called *Westrich*, that is to say, the Realme of the West, and that which is towards *Danubius*, was called *Ostria*, that is the Kingdom of the East, *Austria* being then of a greater command then it is at this day. For it contained all *Hungary*, *Valachia*, *Bohemia*, *Transilvania*, *Denmark*, and *Poland*: Then was the *French* Monarchy of a vast extent. But all these Nations have since, either returned to their first beginning, or new Lords have seized upon them.

His Victories.

Thus the *French* Monarchy was greatly enlarged by the prowess and Valour of *Charlemagne*: and his Children were grown up, as in age, so in knowledge & experience, through the carefull education which their prudent Father gave them; who framed them to the management of affairs, intending them to provide that they might first succeed him in his virtues, and afterwards in his Kingdoms. But man purposeth and God disposeth, *France*, *Italy*, *Germany*, *Spain*, and *Hungary* made the *Roman* Empire in the West, and *Charlemagne* being Master of these goodly Provinces, was in effect an Emperor, but only wanted the Title, and the soleme Declaration of this dignity. And shortly after, the Providence of God that gave him the former, ministred opportunity to him for the enjoyment of the latter, which came thus to passe.

His education of his Children.

*Leo* was at this time Pope of *Rome*, against whom there was strange sedition raised by *Syluester*, and *Campul*, men of great credit in the Court of *Rome*. These men (with their adherents) upon a solemn day of Procession, seized upon

A Sedition in Rome.

The Pope  
freed out  
of Prison.  
Flies to  
Charles

Leo before St. Lawrence Church, whom they stripped of his Pontifical Robes, cast him unto the ground, trod him under their feet, and bruised his face with their fists, and having dragged him ignominiously through the dirt, they cast him into Prison: where yet he stayed not long, being freed by a Groom of his Chamber called *Albin*: and so having recovered St. Peters Church, he sent to *Vingise*, Duke of *Spoleto*, intreating him to deliver him from this miserable Captivity. *Vingise* failed him not, but came to *Rome*, and carried the Pope along with him to *Spoleto*, where yet he stayed not long, but from thence went to *Charlemagne* into *France*, whom he found full of Troubles. He complained that many of the *Romans* sought to usurp his power into their hands, and advised the King, to exact an Oath of Fidelity of them. *Paschalis* was there soon after him, and accused the Pope of Adultery, and other grosse Crimes. *Charlemagne* dismissed them both, and promised to be at *Rome* within a few moneths, and accordingly prepared for his journey.

Charles goes  
to Rome.

In December Anno Christi 800. *Charlemagne* was received in *Rome* with all shewes of Honour, and within eight dayes he went into St. Peters Church, and in the presence of all the people and Clergy, he asked, who had any thing to say against Pope *Leo*; *Paschalis*, or *Paschasius*, and *Campulm* had published the Popes Crimes by Writ: but knowing how *Charlemagne* stood affected towards both parties, they appeared not; So none prosecuting these crimes against him, the Pope was absolved upon his Oath; wherein he swore by God and the four Evangelists, that all these things were false which they layed to his Charge: Whereupon the King declared him innocent, and condemned his accusers, and within few daies three hundred of them were beheaded in the *Lateran* Field for their presumption, and affectation of liberty, on the eighteenth of December, and shortly after, *Charles* was chosen Emperor: but before I speak of that, I must represent you with a brief view of the present estate, and condition of the Emperor of *Constantinople*.

Clears the  
Pope upon  
his Oath.



The seat of the *Roman* Empire, since the time of *Constantine* the great, remained at *Constantinople*, a City of *Thrace*, situated in a convenient place for the guard of the Eastern Provinces: After which, all the West being full of new Guests, who had expelled the *Romanes*, the name, authority and power of the Empire remained in the East, where now the State was in a strange confusion, the mother being banded against her Son, and the People amongst themselves.

*Constantine* the Son of *Leo* the Fourth, was Emperor at this time, who from his Infancy was governed (together with the Empire) by his Mother *Irene*: But being now come to the age of twenty years, he assumed the Government into his own hands. There was then a great division in the East, which had been continued from Father to Son for four-score yeares together, about bringing Images into the Churches. The Bishops would needs bring them in: But the Emperors together with the greatest part of the People opposed themselves against them. This contention had its beginning under *Philip Bardanes*, was continued under *Leo Isaurus*, and from him was derived to his Son *Constantine*, surnamed *Copronymus*, and to *Leo* the Fourth, Son to the said *Constantine*. This filled all the East with infinite scandalls.

The same fire of contention continued in the minority of our *Constantine*, who was yet governed by his Mother, a woman of aviolent spirit, who had undertaken the protectio of Images, & held a Council of many Bishops for the defence thereof: But the people growing into a mutiny, by force expelled them from *Constantinople*, where their Assembly was held, But *Irene*, being resolved to carry on her design, assembled another Council at *Nicea*, City of *Bithinia*, honored for having intertained the first general Council under *Constantine* the Great, the first of that name: where it was Decreed, that Images should be placed in Churches for devotion. But *Charlemagne* did not allow of this Decree, and either himself or some other by his Command, did write a small Treatise against this Council, the which beares this Title, A Treatise of *Charlemagne*, touching Images, against the Greek Synode.

The State of the Eastern Empire.

Contention about Images.

A Counsel from them.

Charles against Images.

This

This crafty Woman made choise of the City of *Nicea*, that the name of the ancient first Council held there, might honour this new invention with the pretext of Antiquity: For there are some that confound the first Council of *Nicea* with the second, and *Constantine* the fourth with the first.

*Constantine* continued in the hereditary hatred of his Father, and Grandfather against Images, so as being of age, and in absolute possession of his Empire, he disannulled all these new decrees, and caused the Images to be beaten down in all places: Yet did he make all shews of respect to his Mother, yeilding unto her a good part of his authority and command: which respect was the cause of an horrible *Tragedy*. For this Woman being transported for two causes (both by reason of her new opinion, and for despight that she had not the whole Government in her own power) grew so unnatural, that she resolved to dispossess her Son of the Empire, and to seize up on it herself: And indeed the authority which her Son had left her, and the free accesse which she had unto his Person, gave her oportunity for the execution of her design. For having corrupted such as had the cheif Forces of the Empire at their command, and won them to her with her Sons Treasure, she seized on his Person, put out his eyes, and sent him into Exile (where, shortly after, he died of grief) and took possession of the Empire.

An unnatural Mother.

These unnatural and *Tragick* furies were practised in the East, whiles that *Charlemagne*, by his great Valour built an Empire in the West. *Irene*, in her Son *Constantines* life time would have married him with the eldest Daughter of *Charlemagne*: but this accident crossed that design.

*Irene* treats with *Charles*.

After the Death of *Constantine*, *Irene* sent to *Charlemagne* to excuse herself of the murder, disavowing it, and laying the blame upon such as had done it (as she pretended) without her command. And to win the good liking of *Charlemagne*, she caused him to be dealt withall about marriage (For at that time *Pestruce* was dead) with promise to consent that he should be declared *Emperor* of the West, and that



that she also would resign unto him the Empire of the East : But *Charlemagne* would not accept of her profers. The Nobility and People of the *Greek* Empire did so hate *Irene*, as having suffered her the space of three years, in the end, they resolved to dispossesse her.

This Woman, the unnatural murderess of her own child, being thus publickly hated and detested, *Nicephorus*, a great and Nobleman of *Greece*, assisted by the Chiefest in the Court, and with the good liking, and consent of the People, seized upon the Empire, and took *Irene*, whom yet he only banished, to give her oportunity and means to live better then she had done : And afterward he treated, and agreed with *Charlemagne*, that the Empire of the East continuing under his command, the other of the West should remain to *Charles*.

*Irene* hated and deposed, *Nicephorus* succeeds her.

By this Transaction of *Nicephorus*, and the consent of the *Greeks*, the possession of the Empire was ratified and confirmed to *Charlemagne*, and now began the Division of the Empire into the East and West. That of the west began in *Charlemagne*, and continued in his Posterity, whilst they were inheritors of their Fathers virtues : But afterwards it was translated to the Princes of *Germany*, who yet acknowledge *Charlemagne* to have risen from a *German* Rock, being born at *Wormes*, Crowned at *Spire*, and interred at *Aix*, all Cities of *Germany*. Hitherto we have represented, what *Charlemagne* did whilst he was King of *France* only : Now we are come to consider what hapned to him, worthy of Memory, whilst he was *Emperor*.

He treats with *Charles*.

*The deeds of Charlemagne after he came to the Empire.*

The *Romanists* do boast that the Pope gave the Empire of the West unto *Charlemagne* : But the truth is, the Popes had not yet come to that hight as to pretend to a power of disposing of Empires and Kingdoms at their own pleasure : But the right of *Charles* came another way. For before he came to *Rome* Anno *Christi* 800. he had all *France* under his Government, together with *Franconia*, and *Austrasia* :  
He

His large  
Domini-  
ons.

His title to  
the Em-  
pire.

Naucler.

An agree-  
ment be-  
twixt  
Charles and  
the Pope.

He had subdued a great part of *Spaine* unto the River *Iberus*, from the *Sarazins*: As also *Saxony*, *Westphalia*, *Dacia*, *Hungary*, *Istria*, *Dalmatia*. He had likewise subdued all *Italy*, except *Magna Gracia*, and therefore he was entituled, *Charles* by the Grace of God King of the *Frenches*, Emperor of the *Lombards*, and *Patricius* of *Rome*: So he styles himself in his Epistle to *Alcwin*: and *Alcwin* in an Epistle to him styles him, The Glorious Emperor [*Gallicarum*] of *France*, and *Restorer* of *Defensor Ecclesia*: Both which Epistles are in the second Part of *Alcwin's* Works. His Coronation was by the Decree and Prayers of the *Romane* People. *Sigisbert* in his *Chronicon*, shewes the time, and cause, saying: The *Romanes*, who in heart were long before false from the Emperors of *Constantinople*: Taking the opportunity that *Irene* had picked out the eyes of her own Son the Emperor, with one General consent they resolved to Proclaim King *Charles* for their Emperor, and to Crown him by the hands of the Pope: So on *Decemb. 25. Anno Christi* 800. they Crowned him by the hands of Pope *Leo*, as the Emperors were wont to be Crowned by the Bishops of *Constantinople*; and the People cried thrice, *Carolo Augusto, à Deo Coronato, Magno & Pacifico Imperatori, Vita & Victoria*, And the Pope anointed him: As also his Son *Pepin*, whom *Charlemagne*, by a solemn Decree had made King of *Italy*. And the Pope knowing the dangers which had oft befallen himself and his Predecessors, intreated the Emperor that he would be *Protector* of the Church of *Rome*.

Thus *Charlemagne*, the King of *France*, was advanced to the Empire, partly by Inheritance, partly by the sword, by dedition, and the Title was given him by the People, and the Bishop of *Rome*: yet nothing was proper to the Bishop, but the Coronation and other Ceremonies, which he performed in the name of the People, according to the Custom at *Constantinople*. At the same time also it was agreed, that all the Chief men of the City, as well *Ecclesiastical*, as *Secular*, should give their Oath of Fidelity unto the Emperor. Secondly, That the Emperors *Missus* should reside in the Palace of *St. Peter* to decide Pleas amongst



mongst the People : and that there should be allotted for his maintenance, a part of the former Emperors Patrimony. Thirdly, That if any mans cause was perverted by the ordinary Judges, and the wronged person should implore the aid of the *Missus*, or Emperors Commissioner, for Justice; and the *Missus* should adjure the Judges, saying, *By the Faith ye owe unto my Lord the Emperor, I require you to do this man Justice* : Then none should dare to decline, either to the right hand or to the left, although the wrong were done by any of the Popes kinsmen. Fourthly, That the Mutes which should be imposed upon any guilty person, should be equally divided between the Emperors *Missus*, and the Popes *Missus*. Fifthly, That if any goods fell under *Escheat*, they should appertain to the Church, without an expresse gift of the Emperor. *Continu. Entrop. Catal. Test. Verit.*

Yet all this right was not sufficient for *Charlemagne*, nor did he enjoy the Empire without contradiction. For he was forced to overcome the envy of this assumed Title with great sums of mony; Especially the Emperor of *Constantinople* envyed it; but *Charlemagne* by his magnanimity prevailed against their contumacy, wherein he excelled the *Greeks*: and he sent many Ambassadors unto them: especially unto *Irene*, not only to treat for Peace, but about her marriage, that thereby he might the better confirme his Title: But before his Ambassadors came the second time to *Constantinople* (*Irene* being sick) the People had Crowned *Nicephorus* on the first of *November Anno Christi* 802.

Charles is envied.

Yet did *Nicephorus* renew the League with *Charlemagne*, which *Irene* had before made with him: but (as *Sigonius* saith) with expresse condition, that *Venice* should be free betwixt the two Empires. In the mean time *Nicephorus* was molested by the *Sarazins*, and was forced to agree with them upon hard conditions: He was also molested by the *Bulgarians*, over whom he obtained one great Victory; but when he refused all conditions of Peace, they assembled together again to fight for their Lives and Land, in which Battel they

Zonary.

Nicephorus  
is slain.

overthrew, and killed *Nicephorus*, and his son *Stauracius* was wounded in the fight, and fled to *Adrianople*, where he was afterward declared Emperor. But after three Months *Michael Rangabis*, his Brother in Law, shut him up in a Monastery. Then were mutual Ambassadors sent between the two Emperors, & a perpetual Peace was concluded betwixt them.

The Saxons  
oft rebell.

Charles his  
Prudence.  
Crantz, in  
Saxon.  
Bishop-  
ricks erec-  
ted.

*Charles* the Great was Crowned Emperor in the thirty-third year of his Reign, upon the 25<sup>th</sup> of *December*, and in the fifty eighth year of his age. He fought many Battels and was always victorious. He had (as was said before) Wars with the Heathenish *Saxons*, which, by times, lasted thirty years: He oft-times overcame them, and granted them liberty, upon condition that they would imbrace the *Christian* Faith; but upon every opportunity their Duke *Wedekin*, shaked off both Loyalty, and *Christianity*. At several times when *Charlemagne* had obtained a Victory, his manner was to erect a new Bishoprick: So that he erected seven Bishopricks in that province, to which he annexed Princely Power, knowing well, that such fierce People might sooner be tamed by Religion then by Armes. The places where these were erected, were, *Breme*, *Verda*, *Minda*, *Paterborne*, *Osnabourg*, *Hildesem*, and *Halberstad*. But though he gave the Bishops power of Governing, yet the Nobles did not altogether loose the power of administering in Publike affairs. At last, because the *Saxons* revolted again, he removed ten Thousand of them, with their Wives and Children, into *Brabant*, and *Flanders*, and sent some *French* to inhabit in their roomes.

Troubles  
in Italy.

*Charlemagne* lived fifteen years after that he had united the *Romane* Empire to the *French* Monarchy; yet not without many troubles. For *Grimoald*, Duke of *Beneventum* sought to disturbe *Italy* in the behalf of the *Lombards*: but *Charles* prevented it betimes, imploying against him his Son *Pepin*, a Worthy and a Valiant Prince: and *Grimoald* being vanquished, was entreated withall mildnesse, and being restored to his Estate, he became afterwards a very affectionate, and obedient servant to *Charlemagne*, who was a Prudent Conqueror, that knew as well how to use, as how to get a Victory.

After



After this it followed, that for some attempts made by the *Venetians* against the Empire of *Charlemagne*, in the behalf of the Emperor of *Constantinople*: or ( as others say ) upon the false information of *Fortunatus*, Patriarch of *Grado*, that *Charlemagne* commanded his son *Pepin*, King of *Italy*, to make Wars against them: which he accordingly began with great resolution, and took the Cities and Fortresses which the *Venetians* held within the main land, and at length besieged the City of *Venice* it self, both by Sea and by Land, to the relief whereof the *Greek* Emperor sent a Fleet: about which Authors agree not; for some say, that *Pepin* wholly took *Venice*: Others say, that he only took some Islands thereof, and that the Place which is called *Rioalto* defended it self: How ever it was, this War continued long, *Obeliers*, and *Becur*, two great Personages, being the cheif Commanders for the *Venetians*. At last Peace was concluded betwixt them, and the *Venetians* had liberty to live after their own Lawes and customs, and the *Venetians* won great reputation for being able to defend themselves against so potent and Victorious an Enemy. *Charlemagne* would have the Country which he had Conquered from the *Lombards*, to be called *Lombardy*, that by retaining their Name, he might somewhat sweeten their servile condition, in the ruin of their Estate.

War with  
the *Venetians*.

But now *Charlemagne*, finding himself old and broken, and his Children Valiant, Wise, and Obedient, he resolved to make his last Will and Testament, wherein he divided his Kingdomes between his three legitimate Sons, to wit, *Charles* his Eldest, *Pepin*, and *Lewis*: In which he made his eldest Son *Charles* King of the greatest, and best parts of *France*, and *Germany*. To *Pepin* he gave the Kingdom of *Italy*, and *Bavaria*, with some other Provinces. And to *Lewis* he bequeathed *Provence*, and that part of *France* which bordereth upon *Spaine*, together with some other Provinces. But all succeeded after an other manner then he intended, God the Sovereign disposer of Kingdoms, having decreed otherwise to dispose thereof. He endeavoured also to reduce all his Kingdoms under one Law, making choise

*Charles*  
makes his  
Will.

He gives  
Laws to  
his Sub-  
jects.

of the *Roman* Laws above all others, both for the dignity of the Empire, and because they seemed to him, to be most Just and equal: But the *French*, being loath to alter any thing in their customary Laws, desired, and obtained of him that they might be governed by the same: So as *Gaul*, *Narbonne*, ( which comprehends *Danlphine*, *Languedoc*, and *Provence* ) do use the written Laws ( as the ancient Provinces of the *Romans* ) and the rest of *France* observe their customary Laws.

Infidels  
beaten,

And the  
*Bohemians*;  
and *Polan-*  
*ders*.

It afterwards happened that a great Fleet of Infidels which inhabited *Spain*, with the aid, and assistance of some *Africans*, invaded the Isles of *Sardinia*, and *Corfica* in the *Mediterranean* Sea, for the recovery whereof, the Emperor *Charlemagne* sent commandment to his Son *Pepin* that he should send thither against them a valiant Captain whose name was *Buoaradus*, who took so good order as that he drove those Infidels out of those Islands, and slew five thousand of them in one Battel. And with no lesse good success, the Emperor undertook an other War against the Dukes of the *Bohemians*, and *Polanders*, which is a part of the ancient *Sarmatia*, who infested the Countries under his Dominions, against whom he sent his Son *Charles* with great Forces of *Burgonias*, *Saxons*, and *Germans*: And this young *Charles*, imitating his Father, Warred valiantly, and with discretion against them, and coming first to a Battel with the *Bohemians*, led by *Leo* their Duke, he overcame them, as he did also at other times, and at last slew *Leo* their Duke; the like success he had also against the *Polanders*, so as at length they all became his Fathers Subjects. And for these Victories of *Charlemagne* he was so much feared, and renowned through the World, that a great King of the East; and *Amurath*, the greatest of all the *Muhomatsists*, sent their Ambassadors, with rich Presents unto him, desiring peace, and friendship: and the like did all *Christian* Kings.

His War  
with the  
King of  
*Denmark*.

*Charlemagne* thus living with honour, and in tranquillity, *Godfrey* King of *Demark* ( which was a dependance of the Realm of *Germany*, and part of *Charles* his Portion, as was hinted before ) made War against him. This *Godfrey* was a mighty



mighty Prince, and commanded over a large Dominion, and with great Forces came into *Friesland* and *Saxony*, where he did great harm. Against whom, the Emperor addressing himself ( though he was now Old, and unweildy ) speedily departed with a great Army : but by the way news was brought him that King *Godfrey* was dead, and that his Army was returned into their own Country. And upon the same day news came also, that his Son *Pepin* ( who had raigned in *Italy* in great prosperity ) was dead in the City of *Millan*, which was an occasion of great grief to the old Emperor. Then did he return to the City of *Aken*, or *Aix*, unto which place Ambassadors came to him from *Hermigius*, who succeeded *Godfrey* in the Kingdom of *Denmark*, humbly desiring Peace. The like came also to him from the Emperor of *Constantinople*, and others also from *Amulat*, a King of the *Moors*, who raigned in a great part of *Spaine*; to all which he returned gracious answers, and granted their Petitions : withall, giving hearty thanks to God for that he was generally so well esteemed of. But after this Sunshine, an other storme returned, as the clouds return after the raine : For it pleased God to take away an other of his Sons, called *Charles*, who lay on the borders of *Germany* for the defence thereof; so as now his whole hope rested in his third Son *Lewis*.

*Pepin dies,*

And  
*Charles.*

Thus man purposeth and God disposeth. Thus the Sons die before the Father. Thus we see the greatest cannot free themselves from the common calamities of mankind. Thus both great Kings, and great Kingdoms have their Period.

*Crownes have their compasse ; Kingdoms have their due :  
Fortune her frowns : Felicity her fate.*

Thus *Charlemagne* lost his Children, and his great Empire her best support under God : For these two Princes ( like Stars of the greater magnitude ) did shine bright by inheriting their Fathers virtues, and Valor, leaving behind them

*Lewis*

*Lewis* their Brother, with large Territories, and few virtues, to Govern so great an Estate.

New enemies rise up.

After the Death of these two great Princes, many enemies rose up against old *Charlemagne*, who seemed (as it were) to have lost his two Armes: as the *Sarazins* in *Spaine*, the *Sclavonians*, and the *Normans* in the Northern Regions: But he vanquished them all, and brought them into his obedience and subjection, old and broken as he was.

His love to the Church.

*Charlemagne* all his Life time held the Church in great reverence, and had imployed his Authority to beautify it, and bountifully bestowed his Treasure to enrich it: But this great Plenty, joyned with so long and happy a Peace, made the Church-men to live losely.

He called five Councils.

*Charlemagne* (being himself well instructed in Religion) knowing of what great importance it was, to have such as should instruct others to be sound in the Faith, and holy and exemplary in their lives, he at sundry times, called five Councils in sundry Places of his Dominions (For as yet the Popes had not challenged that Power to belong to them) for the Reformation and good Government of the Church: As at *Mentz*: at *Rheimes*: at *Tours*: at *Chaalons*: and at *Arles*: and by the advise of these Ecclesiastical Assemblies, he made and published many Orders for the good of the Church which were gathered together in a Book called, *Capitula Caroli Magni*. A worthy President for Princes who seek true honour by virtue, whereof the care of Piety is the cheifest Foundation.

His Ecclesiastical Constitutions.

In the Preface to this Book, he thus saith, that he had appointed these Constitutions with the Advice of his *Presbyters*, and *Counsellors*: and that herein he had followed the Example of King *Josias*, who endeavoured to bring the Kingdom which God had given him, to the worship of the true God: Some of his Constitutions are these. He commanded to look to, and to try the learning and Conversation of such as were admitted into the Ministry. He forbad private Masses, Also the Confusion of *Diocesses*, requiring that no Bishop should meddle in an others *Diocesse*. He forbad that any

Books



Books should be read publickly, but such as were approved by the Councell of *Calcedon*. He forbad the worshipping of Saints. He commanded Bishops not to suffer *Presbyters* to teach the People other things then what are contained in, or according to the holy Scriptures. And *Lib. 2. Ch. 3.* he saith, *Although the Authority of the Ecclesiasticall Ministry may seem to stand in our Person: Yet by the Authority of God, and Ordinance of man, its known to be so divided, that every one of you, in his own place and order, hath his own power and Ministry: Hence its manifest that I should admonish you all, and you all should further and help us.* He admonished Bishops especially, to teach both by Life and Doctrine, both by themselves, and the Ministers that were under them, as they would answer the Contrary in their accounts at the Great Day. He Ordained that the Bishop of the first See should not be called the Prince of Priests, or the highest Priest, or have any such Title, but only should be called, *The Bishop of the first See*. That none can lay another foundation, then that which is laid, which is *Christ Jesus*, and that they which lay Christ for their foundation, its to be hoped that they will be careful to shew their Faith, by bringing forth good Workes.

He held also a great Councel in the City of *Frankfort*, of the Bishops of *France, Germany, and Italy*, which himself honoured with his own presence; where, by generall consent the false *Synod* of the *Greeks* (they are the words of the Originall) untruly called the seventh, was condemned, and rejected by all the Bishops, who subscribed to the condemnation of it. This was that Coucel (spoken of before) called by *Irene* at *Nice*, wherein the bringing of Images into Churches for devotion, was established. In a Word, if *Charlemagnes* meddling with *Italy*, and his advancing the Pope, for confirming that which he had taken, could be excused, he was unto all Princes a patterne of magnificence, of Zeal in Religion, of learning, eloquence, temperance, prudence, moderation, &c. *Alewin* saith of him, *Charles* was a Catholick in his Faith, a King in power, a High Priest in Preaching, a Judge in his equity, a Phi-

A Councel  
at *Frankfort*

His Temperance.

losopher in liberal studies, famous in manners, and excellent in all honesty. He was so temperate, that notwithstanding his great revenues, he was never served at the Table with above four dishes at a meal, and those of such meat as best pleased his taste, which he used to the same end for which God created them, which was for sustenance, and to support his Body, not for shew and pomp.

His Exercises.

His ordinary exercise was hunting when he was at leisure, in time of War: and in times of peace, he attended to such as read Histories to him, and sometimes he heard *Musick*, with which he was much delighted, having good skill therein himself: He was very charitable, and a bountifull Almsgiver, and so carefull to provide for the poor Christians, that in *Syria*, in *Africa*, and in *Aegypt*, and in other Provinces of the Infidels, where Christians lived, he found meanes to have Almshouses, and Hospitalls erected, and endowed for those that were Poor.

His Charity.

His last Wars.

But there fell out a new accident, which drew our Great *Charles* again to Armes in his old age, and that was this; *Alphonso*, King of *Navarr*, surnamed the *Chast*, by reason of his singular, and signall temperance in that kind, did inform, and advertise him, that there was now a very fit opportunity, and meanes offered for him utterly to subdue the *Sarazins* in *Spain*. *Charlemagne* (who infinitely desired to finish this work, which he had so often attempted with no great successe) gave ear to the information and advice, whereupon he raises an Army, and marches into *Spain*, relying on the *Spaniards* favour, and assistance, they being *Christians*. Indeed *Alphonso* meant plainly, and sincerely, but so did not his Courtiers, and Nobles, nor associates, who feared *Charles* his forces no less then they did the *Sarazins*, & if *Charles* prevailed, the most confident of *Alphonso's* servants and Officers doubted to be dispossessed of their places, and Governments by a new Master: and therefore they laboured to cross *Alphonso*, and to countermand *Charles*; but the Lot was cast, his Army was in the Field, and he was resolved to passe on: But when he was entred into *Spain*, he encountered with so many difficulties, that being discouraged, he



he returned back into *France*, and so concluded, and put a period to all his Warlike enterprises; embracing again the care of the Church, and of Religion, as a fit subject for the remainder of his dayes.

*Charlemagne* was threescore and eight years old when he left the Wars, after which he spent three whole years in his study, to prepare himself for Death, in which time, he read much in the Bible, and read over also *St. Augustines* works, whom he loved and preferred before all the other Doctors of the Church: He resided also at *Paris*, that he might have opportunity of conferring with learned men. There he erected a goodly University, which he furnished with as learned men as those times could afford, and endowed it with great priviledges: For he had an exceeding great care to make it a Nurcery for the holy Ministry, that from thence the Church might be supplied with able Teachers, whence also grew so many Colleges of *Chanons*, with sufficient revenues annexed thereunto.

His preparation for Death.

Thus *Charlemagne* spent three years happily in the only care of his Soul, leaving an illustrious example to all Princes, to moderate, and ennoble their greatnesse with Piety, and so to enjoy their Temporal estates, as in the mean time not to neglect their eternal concernments, and to think of their departure out of this Life in time.

Foreseeing his Death (whereunto he prepared himself by these exercise) he made his last *Will* and *Testament*, leaving his Son *Lewis* the sole heir unto his great Kingdoms, and bequeathed to the Church much Treasure. But all things and Persons in this World have an end: His *Testament* was but the Harbinger to his Death; for presently after, he was taken with a pain in his side, or Pluresie, and lay sick but eight dayes, and so yielded up his Spirit unto God that gave it, *Anno Christi* 814. and of his age seventy one, and of his *Raign* forty seven, including fifteen years of his Empire: His Body was interred in a sumptuous Church which he had caused to be built in the City of *Aquisgrave*, or *Aix la Capelle*, where he was born, and his memory was honored with a goodly *Epitaph*.

He makes His Will.

His virtues.

He was one of the greatest Princes that ever lived: His virtues are a patterne to other *Monarchs*, and his great successes the subject of their wishes. The greatnesse of his *Monarchy* indeed was admirable: For he quietly enjoyed all *France*, *Germany*, the greatest part of *Hungary*, all *Italy*; and a good part of *Spain*. At the time of his Death he was in peace with the other Kings of *Spain*, as also with the Kings of *England*, *Denmark*, *Bulgarie*, with the Emperor *Leo* of *Constantinople*, and withall the Princes of that time.

His large Dominions

His Character.

This Noble Prince was endued with so many excellent virtues that we read of very few in antient Histories that excelled him, so that he may be justly compared with the best of them: For in Martial Discipline, in Valour, in Dexterity, in feats of Armes, there are none that exceeded him. He obtained as many Victories, fought as many Battles, and subdued as many fierce and Warlike Nations as any one we read of, and that both before, and after that he was Emperor. He was tall of Stature, very well proportioned in all his members, passing strong: of a fair and grave countenance, Valiant, mild, mercifull, a lover of Justice, liberall, very affable, pleasant, well read in History, a great Friend of Arts and Sciences, and sufficiently seen into them, and a man who above all, loved and rewarded learned men. He was very Charitable in his Kingdoms, yea, in his very Court, he harboured and relieved many Strangers, and Pilgrims. In matters of Faith and Religion he was very Zealous; and most of the Wars which he made, were to propagate and enlarge the Christian Faith.

His Zeale.

He (being misled by the darknesse of the times wherein he lived) superstitiously honoured, and obeyed the Church of *Rome*, and the Pope that was Bishop thereof, together with other Bishops and Prelates, commanding his Subjects also to do the like. He was also very devout, and spent much of his time in Prayer, Hearing, and Reading. In his Diet he was very temperate, and a great enemy to riot and excesse; and though he was Rich and Mighty, yet fed he his Body with what was necessary and wholesome, not rare, costly, and strange.

And



And yet his virtues were not without their blemishes (as the greatest commonly are not without some notable vices) For in his Younger dayes, he was much given to women, adding Concubines to his lawful Wives, by whom he had divers Children : But this was in the time of his youth : For afterwards he contented himself with his Wife, and for a remedy of this imperfection, though he was three or four times a Widdower, yet he ever married again the Daughter of some great Prince or other.

His blemishes.

To conclude all, he was an excellent Emperor, that loved and feared God, and dyed when he was very Old, and full of Honour, leaving *Lewis* (the weakest of his Sons) the sole heir of his great Empire, but not of his virtues : So that this great building soon declined in his posterity.

He had engraven upon his Sword *Pro Deo, & Religione*, For God, and Religion : He used to set his Crown upon the Bible, as our *Canutus* sometime put his Crown upon the *Rood*, both of them thereby intimating, that as all honour was due to God, so true Religion was the best *Basis* of Government, and that Piety was the best Policy.

The *Epitaph* which I spake of, was this.

His *Epitaph*.

*Sub hoc conditorio situm est Corpus Caroli Magni, atque Orthodoxi Imperatoris, qui Regnum Francorum nobiliter ampliavit, & per annos Quadraginta septem feliciter tenuit. Decessit Septuagenarius, Anno Domini 814. Indictione 7. Quinto Calend. Febru.*

Under this Tomb lieth the body of *Charles* the Great, and Catholick Emperor, who most Nobly enlarged the Kingdom of the *French*, and most happily ruled it for the space of forty and seven years. He died in the seventy and one year of his age : In the year of our Lord eight hundred and fourteen, the seventh *Indiction*, on the fifth Calends of *February*.

The time of his Death.

His Wives  
and Chil-  
dren.

He had five Wives: the first was called *Galcena*, the Daughter of the King of *Galiftria*, by whom he had no Children. The second was *Theodora*, the sister (or as others say) the Daughter of *Dider*, King of *Lombardy*; whom he kept not long, but repudiated her for fundry reasons. The third was *Hildebanda*, Daughter of the Duke of *Suevia*, whom he loved exceedingly, and had by her three Sons, viz. *Charles* his eldest, whom he made King of the greatest, and best part of *France*, and *Germany*: *Pepin* his second, whom he made King of *Italy*, *Bavaria*, &c. *Lewis* his youngest, to whom he left the Empire intire, his Brothers being both Dead, in their Fathers Life time. This *Lewis* was surnamed *Debonaire*, or the *Courteous*. He had also three Daughters; the eldest was called *Rorbruda*: the second *Birtha*; and the youngest *Giselia* who would never marry. His fourth Wife he had out of *Germany*, called *Fastrada*: And his fifth and last, was also a *German* Lady, called *Luithgranda*, of the *Suevian* Race, by whom he had no Children.

His devoti-  
on.

He shewed his love to Religion by having one, during his Meale-times, that either read to him some part of the Holy Scriptures: or else some part of Saint *Augustines* Books, especially that *De Civitate Dei*: or some History. He was also a great Friend to Learning, and therefore erected three Universities: One was *Padua* in *Italy*; another was that at *Boulognia*: the third was that in *Paris*, whereunto he was excited by our Countryman *Alcwin*, who was his Tutor.

His care of  
his Chil-  
dren.

His Sons he caused to be trained up in the Study of the Liberall Arts: and his Daughters to Learne to sow, and practice good Huswifery. He alwayes wore a short Sword at his Girdle, in the Pummel whereof was engraven his Coat of *Armes*, with which he Sealed all his Lawes, &c. And used to say, *Behold the Sword which shall defend my Lawes, and that shall be drawn and imployed against those that break them.* In the year eight hundred and four, The King of the *Scots* entered into the first League which was between the two King-  
doms



doms of *France*, and *Scotland*, which was confirmed by succeeding Kings, which occasioned one of them to adde unto their *Coat of Armes* a double streak of *Gules* with *Flower de Lisses* round their *Escutchion*, to shew that their alliance with *France* conduced much to the support of their Kingdome.

His le ague  
with Scot-  
land.

**FINIS.**